In Centre’s computer science program, professors teach their students to design and implement efficient solutions to complex problems. Centre also emphasizes communication and life-long learning. Because these skills are combined with a focus on the foundation of computer science as well as on leading-edge developments, a graduate from this program can look forward to an extremely bright professional future.

THE PROGRAM

Computer scientists go by many names: programmer, software engineer, data engineer, system administrator, and web developer. They are driven people who want to contribute to solving the world’s problems. They know that while technical skills are important, teamwork, creativity, and empathy are just as important. At Centre, we get that! Our students learn not only to work by themselves, but how to work with others. Employers know that it takes a team to create a product, and students with the skills to work with others and understand multiple viewpoints will be valued members and leaders of these teams.

Computer science moves at a fast pace. That’s why we spend our time teaching you timeless skills like how to problem-solve, design solutions to challenging problems, and how to adapt to our ever-changing world. By the time you earn your degree, you’ll know at least 8 languages. More importantly, regardless of what new language, operating system, algorithm, or library shows up in the future, you will be confident that you can learn it easily!

Our faculty and staff are first-rate, and the small classes ensure that students get the personal attention that produces superior results. Students work with faculty from the very beginning, and professors see the students in multiple courses, allowing real understanding of both their strengths and weaknesses.

Centre, with its emphasis on teaching, is ranked among the nation’s best liberal arts institutions by U.S. News & World Report, Forbes, Princeton Review, and others. A Centre education provides you with skills in analysis, in critical thinking, and in oral and written communication abilities that enable students to succeed in life after Centre College.

A VARIETY OF COURSES IN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Our course offerings evolve to stay current. Right now, courses include artificial intelligence, databases, networking, operating systems, parallel computing, software design, and more. Our students can do course-related work in a dedicated lab space. A second lab is used for research projects by students and faculty. Our program has a collaborative studio space to support all computer science students, including those who prefer to work on their own laptops.

MINORING IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND DOUBLE MAJORS

The computer science program does offer a minor, which can be a valuable asset for just about anyone regardless of their major. Many of our computer science majors take the opportunity to complete a second major, and in recent years computer science majors have graduated with double majors in art, chemistry, drama, economics, math, physics, and Spanish. Students appreciate the fact that they can study computer science and still pursue other interests in other fields, study abroad, and play on sports teams.
REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Internships give students valuable opportunities to practice what they learn. Some majors are hired as help desk personnel or programmers by Centre’s Information Technology Services. Other students find summer internships where they can get real-world experience, or conduct research with professors across a wide range of disciplines. Some of our classes utilize real-life projects: students in one course implemented a database and web application for a local company, and a first-year seminar created a mobile app for Danville’s Community Arts Center.

opportunities for research

Our computer science students also have opportunities to work on real projects with their professors outside of class. During summers and the academic year, we invite students to collaborate with us on research and projects. Some of our students even co-author papers with us! These opportunities provide our students a chance to apply their skills to real-world problems. We have led projects in Video Games, Artificial Intelligence, Performance Analysis, Energy-Efficient Computing, and Bioinformatics. Nearly two-thirds of our 2019 graduates worked on research or projects in computer science. You won’t see a number like that at most big schools!

CAREERS AND GRADUATE STUDY

Most of our graduates take positions in computer-related fields. Many list their job title as programmer/analyst, software developer, or systems engineer, while others have found positions in network administration. Employers include Google, Epic, Amazon, and MetLife, as well as many other companies. One of our graduates, with a second major in art, is engaged in the game industry in California. The skills you learn as a computer science major will be valuable in almost any career.

Every year a few students decide to continue their computer science studies in graduate school. In recent years alumni have attended the Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, Purdue, the University of Illinois, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Tennessee, and Vanderbilt. Several other alums have completed M.B.A. degrees after they entered the work force. Interdisciplinary studies are becoming more important at the graduate level and we now have several alums in computational biology and data science.

FACULTY

THOMAS E. ALLEN (B.S., Georgia Tech; M.Div., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Ph.D., University of Kentucky), Assistant Professor of Computer Science.

WILLIAM BAILEY (B.A., Kenyon College; Ph.D., University of Kentucky), Visiting Instructor of Computer Science.

MICHAEL K. BRADSHAW (B.S., Centre College; M.S., Ph.D., University of Massachusetts-Amherst), Associate Professor of Computer Science.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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RELATED WEBSITE
https://www.centre.edu/majors-minors/computer-science/

VISIT CENTRE

The best way to judge Centre is to tour the campus, talk to the professors and students, attend a class, and spend the night in a residence hall. We invite you to visit and encourage you to contact the Admission Office if you have any questions.

THE CENTRE COMMITMENT

We back our promise with a deeply engaging and intensely personal education guarantee. If you meet regular academic and social expectations, you will complete all three parts of the Centre Commitment, or the college will provide up to an additional year of study tuition-free.

Centre students will:
• Study abroad
• Have an internship or research opportunity
• Graduate in four years